

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1-45. Canceled

1 46 (Currently Amended). A method of attracting customers in a bulletin
2 board supplied from a server connected to a plurality of clients via a
3 network, said server including an article database and a customer
4 information database, customers contributing articles to the article
5 database and also evaluating articles in the article database, the method
6 comprising the steps of:
7 receiving a request to enter a page in which a bulletin board is sent
8 from the customer using a client via the network to the server;
9 transmitting by the server data of existing article headers to the
10 client of the requesting customer;
11 displaying at the client of the requesting customer a list of article
12 titles and headlines;
13 when the requesting customer at the client selects an article to be
14 read from the list displayed, acquiring by the server details of the selected
15 article among articles stored in the article database and transmitting
16 acquired details together with a bulletin board display form to the client of
17 the requesting customer, said bulletin board display form having buttons to
18 be used by customers to vote for and against the article;
19 when a customer votes for or against the displayed article, adding
20 one vote for or against the article ~~is added~~ to a vote counter for the article
21 in the article database and adding one vote ~~is added~~ to a vote number
22 counter of the customer who has voted, among the customer information
23 stored in customer information database;
24 electronically giving a customer who contributed the displayed
25 article a predetermined benefit depending on an accumulated count of the
26 vote counter for the article; and

27 electronically giving a customer who evaluates a plurality of
28 articles in the article database a predetermined benefit depending a number
29 of articles evaluated within a predetermined time period.

1 47 (Currently Amended). The method recited in claim 46, further
2 comprising the step of initially ~~inquiring~~ acquiring a customer ID and
3 password when a request to enter a page in which a bulletin board is sent
4 from the customer using a client via the network to the server.

1 48 (New). The method recited in claim 46, further comprising the steps of:
2 initially transmitting from the server to the customer client a form
3 for entering a customer ID and password,
4 determining if a customer ID and password have been acquired
5 and, if not, prompting the customer to press an ID registration application
6 button,
7 in response to the ID registration application button being pressed,
8 transmitting from the server to the customer client a form for registering a
9 new customer,
10 receiving by the server new customer information transmitted from
11 the customer client via the network and issuing an ID to the customer, and
12 thereafter, whenever a customer votes for or against an article,
13 correlating the customer with the article in the article database.

1 49 (New). The method recited in claim 46, wherein a bulletin board page
2 sent by the server to a customer client includes a contribution button, the
3 method further comprising the steps of:
4 responding to pressing the contribution button by a customer by
5 transmitting by the server via the network to the customer client a
6 contribution form,
7 receiving by the server a contributed article submitted using th
8 contribution form, and
9 storing the contributed article in the article database.

1 50 (New). The method recited in claim 49, further comprising the step of
2 giving a customer who contributes an article a predetermined benefit
3 depending on a level of reaction from customers who evaluate the article.

1 51 (New). The method recited in claim 50, wherein the predetermined
2 benefit comprises a quantitative value depending on a number of answers
3 from customers who have evaluated the article.

1 52 (New). The method recited in claim 51, wherein the quantitative value
2 is a multivalued quantitative value.

1 53 (New). The method recited in claim 51, further comprising the step of
2 totaling said quantitative value of over a predetermined period and giving
3 the customer who contributed the article said benefit depending on a
4 totaled quantitative value.

1 54 (New). The method recited in claim 46, wherein the server provides a
2 plurality of bulletin boards for respective predetermined categories, the
3 method further comprising the step of prompting a customer at a client to
4 select from among said plurality of bulletin boards.

1 55 (New). The method recited in claim 46, further comprising the step of
2 rejecting by the server an evaluation of an article from a customer who has
3 previously evaluated said article.